

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 04953 01 OF 02 230803Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 SMI-01
DLOS-09 L-03 COME-00 CEQ-01 INT-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00
EPAE-00 NEA-11 /110 W
-----026804 230811Z /10

O R 230708Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3620
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 4953

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, EFIS, AS
SUBJECT: BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING 30TH ANNUAL IWC 26-30 JUNE,
LONDON

REF: (A) STATE 155504, (B) STATE 156247,
(C) CANBERRA 4891 (ALL NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF MET WITH PATRICK RYAN, ASSISTANT SECREATRY, POLICY,
FISHERIES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY TO REVIEW
THE IMPORTANT ISSUES ON THE AGENDA AS OUTLINED REFTEL (A).

2. RYAN SAYS THAT GOA VOTED AGAINST QUOTA ON BOWHEADS IN
TOKYO, IN CANBERRA AND BEFORE AND ITS DELEGATION HAS BEEN
INSTRUCTED TO DO SO AGAIN. HE SAYS THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE
A MISREADING OF THE GOA'S VIEW ON THE SUBJECT AND PARTICULARLY
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PAGE 02 CANBER 04953 01 OF 02 230803Z

AS REGARDS PARAGRAPH 2.C. REPEAT 2.C. HE SAYS THAT IT IS THE
AUSTRALIAN VIEW THAT THE IWC EXISTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
PROTECTING THE SPECIES AND THAT ALL OTHER CNSIDERATIONS ARE
IRRELEVANT INCLUDING SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND COMMERCIAL
CONSIDERATIONS. THE GOA MAKES NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN
ABORIGINAL AND COMMERCIAL WHALING AND THUS DOES NOT AGREE
WITH USG POSITION AS STATED IN 2.B. THEREFORE, WHEN SPECIES

IS DEPLETED ON BASIS OF SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS, OR THREATENED, THIS IS BASIS FOR VOTE BY GOA'S DELEGATION. HE SAYS THAT THE GOA POSITION IS THAT THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS ARE THE BASIS FOR VOTE AND WHEN ITS DELIBERATIONS ARE COMPLETED THE GOA WILL VOTE ACCORDINGLY, AND ARE AD REFERENDUM ON QUESTIONS OF SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS. ACCORDING TO RYAN, THE GOA'S POSITIONS HAVE BEEN HELD IN RESPONSE TO RESPONSIBLE FINDINGS AND REPORTS OF, AMONG OTHERS, SIR SYDNEY FROST WHO HAS BEEN TO SEATTLE AND ELSEWHERE AND HAS ATTENDED PREVIOUS IWC MEETINGS AND THAT A FULL REPORT IS TO BE MADE IN SEPTEMBER WHICH WILL FURTHER GUIDE GOA AND THAT THUS IT DOES NOT BELIEVE ITS POSITION IS CIRCUMSCRIBED IN THE IWC.

3. CONCERNING PARAGRAPH THREE, THE GOA DOES NOT AGREE AT ALL. RYAN STATES GOA FULLY FAMILIAR WITH AND UNDERSTANDS THE USG'S POSITION ON OPENING THE PROCEEDINGS TO OBSERVERS AND THE PRESS. THE GOA DOES NOT WANT TO SEE THE IWC ACCUSED OF BEING A CLOZM AND SECRET CLUB ANYMORE THAN THE U.S. DOES ACCORDING TO RYAN AND IT DOES NOT TAKE KINDLY TO THE IDEA THAT IT HAS NO UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESS. WHAT IT DOES QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN FULLY THOUGHT OUT. BASED ON EXPERIENCE IN CANBERRA LAST YEAR (WHICH RYAN CATEGORIZED AS A "DISASTER") THE GOA IS NOT INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH THE USG'S POSITION. FIRST OF ALL, ACCORDING TO THE GOA, THE IWC IS RUN ON A SHOESTRING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 04953 01 OF 02 230803Z

AND PHYSICAL ACCOMMODATIONS AT IWC CONFERENCE SITES ARE NOT GENERALLY ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE EVEN THE FULL IWC CONFEREES AND ACCREDITED OBSERVERS LET ALONE AN EXPANDED PRESS CORPS. MOREOVER, THE GOA DOES NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO "POLICE" OR TO DISCIPLINE THE SO-CALLED PRESS. BY THIS RYAN SAYS IS MEANT THAT THE PRESS POLICES ITSELF WHICH IS THE SAME AS DOING NOTHING. BADGES OF ACCREDITATION ARE DELIVERATELY (OR PERHAPS CARELESSLY?) EXCHANGED TO ANYONE AND ANYBODY WHO REPRESENTS HIMSELF AS FROM THE PRESS OR AS AN AOBSERVER. AND WHAT HAPPENS IS CHAOS. THE CONFERENCE ENDS UP BEING DISRUPTED AND BADGERED BY THOSE WHO HAVE APATHOLOGICAL INTEREST IN DISRUPTION AND NONE AT ALL IN THE SERIOUS BUSINESS AT HAND. THE GOA'S POSITION IS THAT IT DOESN'T NEED A LECTURE ON THE FREE PRESS. IT WOULD RATHER PUT IT THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROPOSAL NEED TO BE INFORMED OF THE FACTS AND THAT IT WILL CATEGORICALLY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE IF THE USG INSISTS ON IT PROPOSAL IN PARAGRAPH THREE.

4. GOA'S ATTITUDE, ACCORDING TO RYAN, IS THAT IT WILL UNDERSTAND IF THE USG SUPPORTS THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS ON THE TEN-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING. THE GOA'S

POSITION WON'T BE TO SUPPORT THE MORATORIUM AND ITS DELEGATION
HAS BEEN SO INSTRUCTED.

5. RE PARAGRAPH FIVE. RYAN SAYS THAT DR. K RADWAY ALLEN
DOES NOT NECESSARILY SPEAK FOR THE GOA'S POSITION. HE IS,
ACCORDING TO RYAN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE AND
NO LONGER A GOA REPRESENTATIVE. HE IS A POPULATION DYNAMIST
BUT DOES NOT SPEAK WITH THE SAME AUTHORITY AS THE COMMITTEE
AS A WHOLE AND THE GOA WANTS TO HEAR THE FINDINGS OF THE
SCIENCE COMMITTEE. ON THIS POINT, RYAN REVERTED TO THE
QUESTION OF PRESS AND OBSERVER ACCREDITATION. HE SAID THAT,
IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET SOME GUARANTEES THAT THE PRESS AND
THE OBSERVERS WOULD OBSERVE TO RULES AND "POLICE" THEMSELVES,
THE GOA COULD GO ALONG WITH THE PRESS AT THE PLENARY AND THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CANBER 04953 01 OF 02 230803Z

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SESSION. BUT, IT WOULD NEVER AGREE TO
THEIR ADMISSION TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE HEARINGS.

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04953 02 OF 02 230805Z
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O R 230708Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3621
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 CANBERRA 4953

6. ON THE QUESTIN OF PANAMA, THE GOA FINDS ITS POSITION CURIOUS PARTICULARLY SINCE IT WILL NOT ACCEDE AFTER JUNE 30. IT FINDS THIS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT. IT ALSO FINDS THAT SINCE THE PANAMANIAN REPRESENTATIVE IS REALLY A FRENCH NATIONAL WITH PORPOISE OPERATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES WHO HAS ARRANGED TO HAVE HIMSELF ACCREDITED AS KTHE PANAMANIAN REPRESENTATIVE, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR SERIOUS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PANAMANIAN POSITION AND THE GOA WOULD ASSUME THAT THE USG HAS DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS SITUATIN.

7. RE PARAGARPH SIX. THE GOA'S POSITION IS THAT THERE IS NOT GENERALLY THE SAME CRITICISM OF THE IWC AS THERE WAS FIVE YEARS AGO. IT IS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE, IT BELIEVES THAT IT IS, HOWEVER, BETTER TO GET EVERYTHING AGREED TO BEFORE DRAFTING AND THAT IT GENERALY HAS NO DIFFICULTQITH AND WOULD AGREE WITH SEVERAL POINTS AT THE POLICY AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 04953 02 OF 02 230805Z

OFFICIAL LEVEL. GOA WILL GO TO COPENHAGEN, ACCORDING TO RYAN AND SEE HOW IT GOES. RE THE DRAFT TEXTS, THE GOA DELEGATION HAS BEEN BRIEFED TO GO FOR SEPARATE TEXTS.

8. IN WRAPPING UP, RYAN SAID THAT THE GOA DELEGATION HAS BEEN BRIEFED THAT ON THE MORATORIUM ISSUE, THE SITUATION MAY NOT BE BLACK OR WHITE; HOWEVER, IF IT COMES DOWN TO A VOTE ON TE MORATORIUM, THE GOA DELEGATION IS INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN AND SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
SQUIRE

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